

Resetting the Heart

May 6, 2012

Vol. 2 Num. 18

HAGGAI 1:12-15

Core Competency:

Bible Study- I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

Using This Study

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? The words God uses to communicate matters so pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage.

② DISCOVER His Word

What does God MEAN? Answer the questions and then bring to your COMMUNITY GROUP to discover and discuss with others.

③ LIVE His Word

How does this truth FIT? God's word is lived in real life so engage with truth in your LIFE GROUP.

Introduction

In his children's book, *Stories Jesus Told*, Nick Butterworth retells a familiar parable from Matthew 21.

Here is a man.

He grows apples in an orchard.

The apples are red and rosy.

It is time for them to be picked.

At home the man has two sons.

'I want you to help me to pick the apples' says the man to his first son.

'No,' says the first son. 'I'm busy.'

But after a while he is sorry for what he said.

He picks up a basket and goes to the orchard.

The man finds his second son.

'I want you to help me pick the apples too,' he says.

'Yes,' says the second son. 'I will come as soon as I have put on my boots.'

Back in the orchard the first son is busy picking apples. Look he has already filled one basket.

'Well done son,' says the man. 'Here is another basket. We'll have this done in no time.'

They work until all the apples have been picked.

But there is no sign of the second son.

He has forgotten his promise.

Who do you think pleased his father?

The first son or the second son?

Jesus says, 'What we do is more important than what we say.'

This reminds me of the Israelites from our passage. Although their intentions were good, opposition and apathy brought work on the Temple to a standstill. Yet the Lord, speaking through Haggai, graciously called them back.

This Week

What could be more beautiful than the simplicity of a once-powerful nation turning to God in obedience? Yet our Savior is equally delighted, when you, by faith, respond to His call. This week, listen to God speaking through Haggai, and act to reorder your priorities in accordance with God's will. As you obey, you are expressing both your love for God and his Lordship in your life.

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? The words God uses to communicate matters so pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage:

Haggai 1:12-15

12 Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, the high priest Joshua son of Jehozadak, and the entire remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the LORD their God and the words of the prophet Haggai, because the LORD their God had sent him. So the people feared the LORD.

13 Haggai, the LORD's messenger, delivered the LORD's message to the people, "I am with you" — this is the LORD's declaration.

14 The LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, the spirit of the high priest Joshua son of Jehozadak, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people. They began work on the house of Yahweh of Hosts, their God,

15 on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month, in the second year of King Darius.

Ezra 4:4-6

4 Then the people who were already in the land discouraged the people of Judah and made them

afraid to build.

5 They also bribed officials to act against them to frustrate their plans throughout the reign of King Cyrus of Persia and until the reign of King Darius of Persia.

6 At the beginning of the reign of Ahasuerus, the people who were already in the land wrote an accusation against the residents of Judah and Jerusalem.

Ezra 4:23-24

23 As soon as the text of King Artaxerxes' letter was read to Rehum, Shimshai the scribe, and their colleagues, they immediately went to the Jews in Jerusalem and forcibly stopped them.

24 Now the construction of God's house in Jerusalem had stopped and remained at a standstill until the second year of the reign of King Darius of Persia.

② DISCOVER His Word

What does God MEAN? Answer the following questions and then bring to your COMMUNITY GROUP to discover and discuss with others.

1. a) Haggai doesn't describe some of the adversity that Israel faced when they first started building the temple. Read Ezra 4:4-6; 23-24 and summarize a few of the difficulties they originally faced. How, if at all, does this affect your understanding of the Israelites halting work on the temple 10 years earlier?

b) In light of this, do you think God's statement, in Haggai 1:9, is fair? Explain your answer.
2. Haggai 1:12 states, "So the people feared the Lord." How are obedience and fear of the Lord linked in this passage?

3. a) What was God's response to Israel's obedience and how is that a comfort to you?
 - b) What are common barriers to obedience? What practical steps can you take to increase your willingness to both act (in obedience) and to persist, over time, in spite of these barriers?

4. a) What does it mean to have your spirit "stirred up" as in verse 14? What was the result?
 - b) Who initiated this action and what does this reveal to you about God's character and/or how he works?

5. Verses 12 and 14 record three different parties within the group of Israelites. List all 3. Why do you think that God bothered to mention all 3?

6. a) How does the responsibility of leaders differ from the responsibility of those who are being led?
 - b) Think about the contexts in which you may be considered a leader, role model, or a teacher. How can you better model a humble attitude or a responsive heart? What do your actions communicate about what is important to you?

③LIVE His Word

How does this truth FIT? God's word is lived in real life so engage with truth in your LIFE GROUP.

God miraculously opened the door for the exiled Israelites to return to Jerusalem for the express purpose of rebuilding the temple. Why do you think He did not miraculously sweep away all opposition to the process of rebuilding of the temple?

Is there a danger in appraising our current circumstances to try and ascertain whether we are following the Lord's call? Explain.

Sermon Notes:

30 CORE Competencies

10 Core Beliefs

Trinity *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Salvation by Grace *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

Personal God *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Identity in Christ *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

Humanity *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Eternity *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

Stewardship *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

Biblical Community *Acts 2:44-47*

I live life with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in the world.

Giving Away My Time *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away God's Money *2 Corinthians 8:7*

I give away God's money to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Faith *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Life *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

10 Core Virtues

Joy *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

Peace *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, me, and others.

Faithfulness *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I demonstrate loyalty in my relationships with others in response to God's loyalty to me.

Self-Control *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

Humility *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

Love *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

Patience *Proverbs 14:29*

I endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

Gentleness *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Hope *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ

10 Core Practices

Worship *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

Bible Study *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Spiritual Gifts *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.